

SEED MIX GUIDELINE

The following seed mix is recommended for opencut mine site reclamation on Montana's plains, foothills, and intermountain valleys. The use of a site-specific mix may be appropriate depending on site conditions, the postmining land use, compatibility with surrounding vegetation, or landowner preference. The drill rates given are based on 40 pure live seeds per square foot. Purchase certified seed on a pure live seed (PLS) basis. Contact the Department if you would like assistance with alternative seed mix formulation.

<u>Species</u>	<u>#'s PLS/A</u>
Pryor slender wheatgrass	2.0
Rosana western wheatgrass	3.0
Critana thickspike wheatgrass	2.5
Secar Snake River wheatgrass	2.5
Lodorm green needlegrass	2.0
Alfalfa	0.5

The use of highly competitive introduced grasses, particularly crested wheatgrass and smooth brome, is not recommended unless the area to be seeded is in or next to an area where such species are already established.

Use wheat, oat, or barley (in order of preference) for cover crop and nurse crop seeding. Except for highly erodible sites, nurse crop seeding is not recommended due to competition with reclamation species. Use 10 #'s PLS/A for nurse crop seeding and, if possible, seed the annual grain in alternate rows to reduce competition.

If the approved seed mix given in the Plan Of Operation will not be used, apply for an amendment to change the mix.